

Under Our Roof(s)

I am feeling blessed and very thankful! It has been a fast and furious 4 months since joining the Partners for Affordable Housing (PAH) team. I say team, because it certainly takes a caring, passionate and giving group of individuals who come together to fulfill our mission every day. I have long said that you can't take care of people in need, if you don't take care of the people around you too. I am so proud of the team that I've joined – an exemplary group of individuals that make up our paid Staff and volunteer Board of Directors – who not only focus on the shelter guests and transitional housing clients that we serve, but also to make sure that the staff feel supported too! **I am surprised everyday by our staff - their hard work, creativity, and resiliency cannot be matched – they literally will do anything they can to help people!** I'll share more about them in the next edition. Also deserving kudos - the many volunteers that we've hosted this past year – who provide support like raking leaves, to cleaning, moving furniture, weaving sleeping mats, sorting donations and more – people want to help however they can! Please consider sharing your gift of time!

Having worked in the non-profit environment in Mankato for many years, I have never seen such support from the community as we experience at PAH. Affordable Housing is a popular topic around town and will continue to be. The economy of our vibrant community is healthy – lots of jobs and low unemployment is positive for sure! The amount of housing and the difficulty that some face in obtaining it is difficult – we see it every day. People are not at their best when they face barriers such as lack of food, medical and mental health care, and transportation – I hear from people that I meet that housing is the most significant barrier that is often out of reach, especially those who have young children.

Read more about the housing challenges people are facing locally in the By The Numbers section.

I look forward to meeting you and hear about how you support our mission – please feel free to stop by or call!

Jen Theneman, Executive Director



partnersforhousing.org/
www.facebook.com/PartnersforAffordableHousing
[#homelessholiday](https://twitter.com/homelessholiday)

Please consider an end-of-year gift of any amount to support our mission of stable housing for those in need!

Success Story – Tamara

"Moving to Mankato from Illinois in June as a single mother, I found myself in a tough position with nowhere to go. I had a friend call the shelter to see if there was any opening and there was. At that time, I had 4 of my children staying with relatives and one came to shelter with me. After the intake process I realized I was able to adapt to this kind of living style because I grew up in a household around strangers. Right away at my first meeting with the shelter manager, she helped me identify my barriers - one of them was finding a job in Mankato. I got a job driving a bus, something that I had been used to in my previous job. Little did I know that I had to take all my transportation licenses over again, as my Illinois commercial license did not transfer over state lines. That was a huge surprise to me and set me back right away. I powered through studying day in and day out, and got all my needed certificates, to be able to stay working in the transportation industry in Minnesota. After I got my feet on the ground I decided to face my housing barrier, I started looking for housing, I jumped through many hoops talking to people trying to find affordable housing. After I established a budget, after making calls I found place that was appealing for my budget, myself and my 5 children. We then moved in near the end of my 90 stay at the shelter. Since then some of my biggest achievements include staying with a job for a long period of time, getting further certified to open new job opportunities for me with higher pay. I'm a mother to 5 kids that are ages: 18, 17, 14, 12 and 9. All five kids are thriving well and adjusting to living under

the same roof. My 18-year-old has applied for college to take up business management and my other 4 kids are doing extremely well in school, working hard, involved with sports and staying busy challenging themselves the best way they can. From this point forward, my biggest goal in life is to get off all assistance. I want to stand and be on my own and support myself and my kids. If I had one thing to say to Partners for Affordable Housing, I would say that I really appreciate you and the things you have done for me. If it wasn't for you I wouldn't be where I am today. You understood the emotional barrier and stress that came with being homeless. Thank you for accepting me for who I am and seeing the best in me. You saw my strengths in me that I didn't see. It was hard every single day, and I always wanted to give up, but the staff at Partners never let me. You saw my traits for success and gave me the resources to achieve success.

All I can say is thank you!"



Holiday Cheer Basket: We Need Your Help

This holiday season, we are once again asking the community to help bring some cheer to the families at shelter. Please consider making a Holiday Cheer basket and deliver joy by providing some goodwill this Christmas and New Year's season. If you, your community organization, or business is interested in donating a basket, please contact us!





HHAW Recap

Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Week was one for the books! We started with City of Mankato support in signing a proclamation to acknowledge November 11th- November 19th Mankato's Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Week! Throughout this week you might have seen our PAH People around the town at local businesses such as Bremer Bank, US Bank, Caswell Park, Family YMCA, WOW Zone and many other businesses and churches. Our displays this year were better than ever stating causes of homelessness and real-life stats to go along with our PAH People. We also took part in the Grateful Giving Calendar with GMA United Way and our Executive Director, Jen, had the opportunity to speak on KEYC about the week and our organization! Partners feels creating awareness is key and this year's activities have made a real impact on how the community views homelessness in the Blue Earth County area.



Free Store for those in Need

With the help of many volunteers and staff the Free Store is now looking and operating better than ever! Our Free Store needs a steady stream of clean, usable furniture and household items to outfit many individuals and family in need each month.

When considering what to donate, please remember that our clients are often coming out of hard times. Items should be in a gently used condition that you yourself would feel comfortable giving to a friend or neighbor.

In general, we need household items and cleaning supplies that can be used by a family living in a small apartment. Please note that we will no longer be accepting clothing or toys.

Interested in donating? Email Gabriell set up a donation drop off time today!

We thank you in advance for your support in helping us help our community!



Co-chairs in friendly competition this year
Dr. Joel Gordon, Mayo Clinic Health Systems and
Dr. John Benson, Mankato Clinic.



PARTNERS FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING



Join us at the Sixth Annual Pedal Past Poverty!

#PedalPastPoverty or partnersforhousing.org/pedal

It's hard to believe that this will be the sixth year of Pedal Past Poverty! Each year this event gets bigger and the community becomes even more generous, with an amazing \$97,000 being raised last year alone to help those in need in our community. We are grateful to be heading into year six and we invite you to join us!

Pedal Past Poverty 2018 will take place on Saturday, February 24 at the Mankato YMCA from 9am – 2pm. There are a number of different ways to get involved! Sign up to be a team captain and recruit your fellow team members. Or sign up as an individual biker and be placed on a team! Consider your business to sponsor Pedal Past Poverty. Or sign up to volunteer the day of the event. And of course, don't forget to donate to this great cause! The opportunities are endless! Give us a call at 507-387-2115 for more information!

HOW IT WORKS:

- Sign up to be a team captain
- Build a team of 10 riders
(*friends, family, co-workers, neighbors*)
- Fundraise \$1,000 or more as a team
- All riders receive a free t-shirt

DAY OF THE EVENT:

- Compete against other teams on stationary and spin bikes
- Bike for 20 minute intervals, with a 10 minute break in between rides
- Get motivated and pumped up with Radio Mankato blasting some music
- Win awesome prizes throughout the day
- Subway sandwiches will be available to purchase

To create or sign up for a team: Text :PPP2018 to 71777



BECOME A SPONSOR!

Don't let your business miss this great opportunity to be a part of a highly visible and fun event within our community – with an even more incredible cause! We're looking for corporate sponsors to help support the important work that we do in the greater Mankato area. Call 507-387-2115 today!



PAH Online

November 11-19 marked National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week. This can be a perfect time to visit with your children and grandchildren about homelessness and get them thinking about how they might be able to help!

Here's what you and your children should know:



Like us! Like our page already, please share our information and interesting articles with your friends! Partners for Affordable Housing has set a goal to reach 2,000 likes in 2018! Help us reach that goal so that we can continue to work through our users to bring awareness to the homelessness issue!



Take a look each day for a scholarly article that digs in deep under the topic of homelessness. Stay up to date on what we are doing each day and like our page today www.facebook.com/PartnersforAffordableHousing/ on the About tab.



Share with family or friends to increase awareness of homelessness in our community.



2nd Annual Hats, Horses & Hope

Did you miss out on the fun last spring? Don't worry! Mark your calendars for **Saturday May 5th, 2018!** Hats, Horses & Hope is back so grab your fancy hats and most styling bowties! Partners for Affordable Housing is hosting an inaugural Run for the Roses – a Kentucky Derby celebration fundraiser called Hats, Horses & Hope. This stylish soiree will include an outdoor patio and tent, live music, red carpet photo opportunities, drink specials and of course, the most exciting two minutes in sports! We hope you'll join us for this Kentucky Derby celebration! Sponsorships are available now! Watch for ticket information in the spring.



Come See Us: Kiwanis Holiday Lights

Once again, Kiwanis Holiday Lights Show is back at Sibley Park for its 7th year, from November 24 to December 31. This amazing display of lights brings joy to the thousands who visit while benefiting many local nonprofits, including Partners for Affordable Housing. As a featured non-profit, check out tree on display featuring our creative take on what a Homeless Holiday looks like! We want to know what you think about our tree display!

Take a picture with our tree and tag our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/PartnersforAffordableHousing and add our holiday hashtag #HomelessHoliday.



Build-A-Bed Event

We're partnering with SS Boutique, another area non-profit, on a community event to build simple bed frames for those in need. Partners is working with a local hotel who is donating their mattresses, but our recipients usually have to put their mattresses on the floor. These bed frames will allow a better night sleep and give added storage space to their often cramped living environment. Join us on January 13th for an hour or two and make a difference. More details will be shared on our website, facebook or contact us if you, your family or group would like to get involved!



Notable Giving

We are so delighted to announce that we recently received a grant from Consolidated Communications for \$15,000 to upgrade our shelter beds, mattresses, dressers and nightstands. This has been a wonderful update and we have received great feedback from the current guest. We know this upgrade will give our shelter guest a great and comfortable experience while they stay with us! Thank you, Consolidated Communications! Also exciting for us was to replace some dying computers with new ones, thanks to \$5,000 from the Carl & Verna Schmidt Foundation.



By The Numbers

Locally over **300** children have been identified as homeless

1 in 4 Mankato residents live in poverty

14,000 people in Blue Earth County and Nicollet County live at or below the poverty level

Partners for Affordable Housing offers shelter for

11 families every night

Last year we hosted **1015** individuals in our emergency shelter

Partners for Affordable Housing receives

7-10 calls a day from people need of immediate shelter

45% of shelter guests are under 18, they average 5 years old

In Minnesota homelessness went up **31%** in the past 6 years

In Mankato, **36%** of renters pay more than 50% of their income on housing.

About **1 in 10** homeless adults have served in the military. 2/3 of them served more than 2 years for our country and 26% served in combat zones

Less than **1%** has current vacancy for affordable housing in Mankato- North Mankato

#Homeless Holiday Needs You!

This busy season is a flurry of activity – decorations, food, being thankful, presents, holiday lights and more. It's easy to get caught up in all that we have to do to get ready, and to celebrate with family and friends through the rest of the year. This year our Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week and our Kiwanis Holiday Lights displays, have purposefully been designed as a reminder to us all that some in our community don't have that much to look forward to this holiday season – especially when they don't have a home to decorate, entertain in, or money to buy presents. The Holiday Lights display this year shows a family that is taking Christmas with them (tree, decorations, suitcases, presents and a child) to wherever they may go next. When I was there the other night, I overheard a woman looking at our display say, "geez, I get it, but it's not very festive." That's exactly the point, we are working to bring awareness that not everyone is living in a stable environment and can focus on celebrating, when they are working to survive. If this isn't your experience and you're feeling blessed this Christmas, won't you consider supporting our mission of stability and a housing hand up to those in need? Help us make this holiday and everyday better than the last for our guests and clients who depend on your generosity, just like Tamara who shared her story! Thank you for supporting us!



Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

Shelter Community Meals – Thursday Nights @ 5pm

- Purchase, prepare, and drop off a simple meal in disposable dishware for the families staying at our shelter on Thursday evenings.

Donation Sorting – Anytime

- Help us keep our donations neat, organized, and usable for shelter guests and other clients. Duties range from folding sheets, cleaning dishes and moving furniture. Sorting can be done for 2-4 hours on almost any weekday between 9am and 5pm. The work can be a little tedious so bring a friend and help us at our Free Store.

Property Related Help – Anytime; Some Seasonal

- Help us with property related items: volunteers help with cleaning, painting, or yard work. Some projects that we'll need help with year include spring gardening, replacing mulch, mowing and raking leaves in the fall.

Pedal Past Poverty Event – 6th Annual: Saturday, February 24, 2018

- Join the planning committee or help with event day activities including registration, check in, prize control, bike runners and much more!

Mommy Mentor Program - Anytime

- Do you have maternal instincts that would you be willing to share? Consider taking on the role of a mentor to someone in need. Supporting someone through the first few months of

motherhood could be life changing. This volunteer opportunity would allow you to work one on one with a new mother giving her tips and tricks on how to be the best mom she can be.

Office Help – Anytime

- We often have projects for volunteers to help us with around the office, can you help? Whether its sorting, putting together mailings, computer work, filing or more – any help would be appreciated!

It would not be possible to do what we do without the help of our amazing volunteers. If you would like to get involved, please contact Gabriell, Communications Coordinator at gabriell.pah@eventis.net.



PARTNERS FOR
AFFORDABLE
HOUSING

PAH Central Office

151 Good Counsel Drive, Suite 130
Mankato, MN 56001

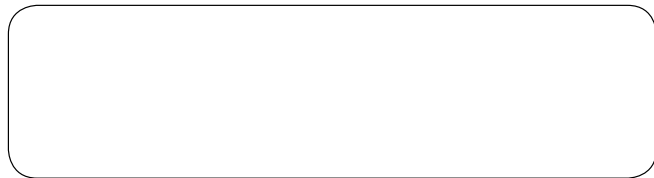
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Winter 2017 Newsletter



Partners for Affordable Housing provides shelter for homeless families and individuals, and helps them to secure economically viable long-term housing.



Board *Members*

Christian Bailey – Kato Engineering

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Beth Fasnacht – Timeless Interiors

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Michelle Johnson - LabelWorks

Doug Lago – United Prairie Bank

Lindsey Northenscold – ISD 77

Mark Piepho – Allied Moving & Storage

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Jacob Sherlock – Blethen, Gage & Krause

Sr. Brenda TeVogt – MVAC Head Start

Kris Wuller – Kraft Foods

If you're interested in joining our Board or an event committee, please contact Jen!

Need to update your address, want to receive this newsletter electronically or wish to be removed from our mailing list? Please contact Gabriell Edel at 507-387-2115 ext. 4 or gabriell.pah@eventis.net.

Follow Partners for Affordable Housing on Social Media!

